

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-10, 14-20 and 25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 14, 19 and 25 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in now-canceled claims 3 and 4. Claims 5, 14 and 25 are amended to be in independent form. Claim 10 is amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in now-canceled claims 12 and 13. Claims 8 and 19 are amended for consistency. No new matter is added. Claims 2-4, 11-13, 21 and 22 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-12 and 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over "Implementation of a Workflow-based Web Application with an Electronic Signature Mechanism," Int'l. Conf. on Communication Technology, 1998 (hereinafter "Kim") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0133495 to Rienhoff. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Decision on Appeal affirmed the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-12 and 15-22. The Decision reversed the rejection of claims 4, 5, 13, 14 and 25 over the references. The October 28 communication indicates that if claims 4, 5, 13, 14 and 25 are written in independent form, this application would be in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 1 and 10 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in now-canceled claims 4 and 13, and claims 5, 14 and 25 are amended to be in independent form, to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 6-10 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Rienhoff is rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 5-10, 14-20 and 25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

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